

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02

SCI-06 DRC-01 CIEP-02 /144 W  
----- 090836

R 260745Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5102

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, MT, LY, IT

SUBJ: PROBABLE ESSO WITHDRAWAL

REF: VALLETTA 2480

1. ESSO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR AFRICA, R.B. CARTER, ACCOMPANIED BY MARKETING VICE PRESIDENT FUCHAHANNY, COMPLETED TWO DAY VISIT DEC. 21 WITHOUT ACCOMPLISHING THEIR MISSION WHICH WAS TO DISCUSS WITH GOM LEADERS ESSO MALTA'S LOSSES AT CURRENT GOM AUTHORIZED PRICE LEVEL. DURING CARTER'S VISIT, LOCAL ESSO MANAGER NAUDI REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF FOR CARTER AND FUCHAHANNY TO DISCUSS ESSO'S PROBLEM AND NECESSITY FOR THEM TO WITHDRAW FROM MALTA DEC. 31 IN THE ABSENCE OF PRICE RELIEF. ACCORDING TO NAUDI, THEIR REQUEST WAS IGNORED AND GOM CONTINUES TO TEMPORIZE.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, ALI FITURY, CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BREGA PETROLEUM COMPANY LTD., VISITED MALTA  
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EARLIER THIS WEEK PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS PRICE AND DELIVERY

TERMS FOR CRUDE WHICH LARG HAS ALLOCATED TO MALTA. DURING A COURTESY CALL BY CARTER TO CHARGE WE ASKED WHETHER LARG'S ALOCATION OF 500,000 TO 600,000 METRIC TONS OF CRUDE COINCIDES WITH MALTA'S CONSUMPTION OF REFINED PRODUCTS. FUCKAHANNY REPLIED THIS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER DOUBLE MALTA'S NORMAL COMSUMPTION.

3. ALSO, CARTER'S VISIT OVERLAP WITH DELEGATION TWO SENIOR OFFICIALS ITALIAN COMPANY MONTEDISON. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, DR.ADOLFO VANNUCCI, MONTEDISON REPRESENTATIVE FOR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN SALES, AND DR. LUGI PERINI, IN CHARGE OF THE PURCHASE OF CRUDE OIL, HELD DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO LARG OFFER AND TO IMPROVEMENTS AT LOCAL GAS BOARD.

4. IN VIEW OF MINTOFF'S REFUSAL TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH ESSO REPRESENTATIVES, WITH SCOPE OF ARRIVING AT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION, NAUDI HAS ADVISED EMBASSY HE WILL HAVE TO INFORM ESSO'S CUSTOMERS BEGINNING DEC. 22 OF IMPENDING WITHDRAWAL.

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF ACCUSATIONS BY PM'S OFFICE TO EFFECT ESSO IS TRYING TO PUT PRESSURE ON GOM, THERE MAY BE FURTHER COMPLICATIONS FOR US INTERESTS IN MALTA ASSOCIATED WITH ESSO PULLOUT.TUCKER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, BUSINESSMEN, PRICE FIXING, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** PROBABLE ESSO WITHDRAWAL  
**TAGS:** ENRG, MT, LY, IT, ESSO, (CARTER, R B), (FUCKAHANNY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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